

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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A new composition and method for the improvement of gastrointestinal absorption and systemic utilization of nutrients and nutritional supplements, wherein the composition comprises an extract from the fruit of Piper containing a minimum of 98% of pure alkaloid piperine. The method comprises oral, topical, or parenteral administration of the compositions of the invention. A new process for the extraction and purification of piperine is also disclosed.